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IRAC No. 105

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SITE: JCS 9573

DTG : 081558Z

FROM: GEN WHEELER, CJCS

TO : ADM SHARP, CINCPAC

GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

09 NOVEMBER 1967

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 04 Apr 2016 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part:
Reason:
MDR: 16 -M- 1318

SUBJ: DATA TO MEASURE PROGRESS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM

1. (S) HIGHEST AUTHORITY HAS DIRECTED THE FORMATION OF INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW DATA USED TO MEASURE TREND OF WAR IN VIETNAM. IN ITS PRELIMINARY REPORT GROUP CONCLUDED THAT DATA MOST FREQUENTLY USED NOT ADEQUATE FOR TASK AND RECOMMENDED FORMATION OF SPECIAL INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF DIRECTOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE TO SYSTEMATICALLY DEVELOP NEW WAYS OF MEASURING PROGRESS.

2. (S) IN SUMMARY, PRELIMINARY REPORT INCLUDES FOLLOWING:

A. SHORT TERM. GROUP RECOMMENDED EFFORTS BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO: (1) IMPROVE CURRENT INDICATOR CHARTS, (2) DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INDICATORS FROM HAMLET EVALUATION SYSTEM, (3) EXPLORE OTHER POTENTIAL INDICATORS (ROAD AND WATERWAYS CONTROL, PROVINCIAL PRICE INDICES, ETC.), AND (4) PREPARE MONTHLY NARRATIVE STATEMENTS ON PROGRESS WHICH CANNOT BE PORTRAYED STATISTICALLY. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT DUE DECEMBER 4, 1967.

B. MEDIUM RANGE. GROUP CONCLUDED THAT IMPROVED MEASUREMENTS OF RVNAF EFFECTIVENESS AND VC MILITARY POTENTIAL SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND PERODIC SOUNDINGS OF VIETNAMESE ATTITUDE PROVIDED TO COMPLEMENT OTHER INDICATORS. EXISTING DATA NOT ADEQUATE TO MEASURE RVNAF EFFECTIVENESS. GROUP RECOMMENDS THAT DETAILED DATA

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REQUIREMENTS BE DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED WITH US MISSION AND GVN. VIETNAMESE OPINION COULD BE SAMPLED BY OPINION POLLS AND USE OF COLLECTION MECHANISMS. EFFORTS SHOULD BEGIN NOW, WITH DATA REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSED PROGRAMS TO BE REPORTED ON DECEMBER 4, 1967. REPORT OF SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS SHOULD BE PROVIDED ON JANUARY 3 , 1968, WITH INTERIM RESULTS REPORTED AS AVAILABLE.

C. LONG TERM. GROUP CONCLUDED THAT OBJECTIVE OF FOREGOING EFFORTS SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP SMALL NUMBER OF CREDIBLE MEASUREMENTS AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD BALANCED GROUP OF VALID INDICATORS CAN BE MADE IF FOREGOING ACTIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN WITH SUFFICIENT PRIORITY AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.

3. (S) FAR-REACHING AFFECTS OF PROPOSAL AND HIGH LEVAL INTEREST SUGGESTS THAT THIS MATTER BE GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION. COPY OF PRELIMINARY REOPRT, DATED 26 OCTOBER 1967, BEING AIRMAILED TO CINCPAC AND COMUSMACV THIS DATE FOR INFORMATION. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE FURNISHED WHEN AVAILABLE. WORKING GROUP ANTICIPATES BREIFING CINCPAC, MACV AND AMBASSADOR SAIGON NLT 15 DECEMBER 1967.

4. (S) AFTER RECEIPT AND STUDY OF PRELIMINARY REPORT, YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR MEMBERS OF INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

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